PENCIL ME IN

The Business Drawing Book for People Who Can't Draw

CHRISTINA WODTKE

"Doodlers, unite! *Pencil Me In* gives visual language its due and its DO, making it possible for even the most hopeless of artists to wield this incredible tool for learning."

SUNNI BROWN, Bestselling Author + Chief Human Potentialist

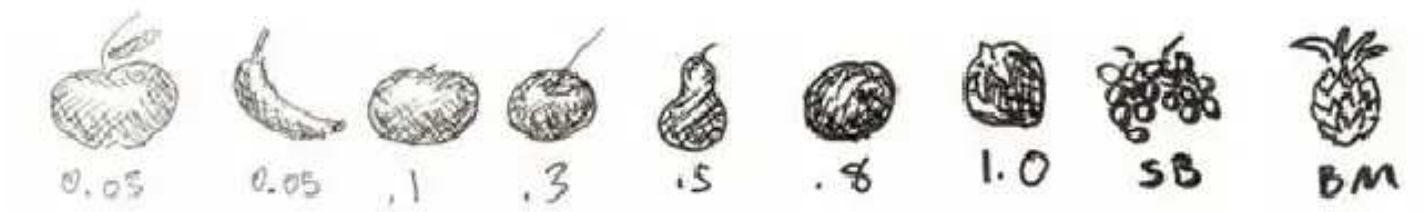
VISIT…

Equipment

You will want a pencil, a pen and paper. I started with Sharpies and index cards. But Sharpies bleed through normal paper!

My favorite brands now are Micron and Tombow. If the pen's product description says, "archival ink," you won't get in trouble with fading (or accidently washing).

When I get a new set of pens, I always test each size, to see how I feel about the lines.



My first notebook was a Moleskine. They're in many stores, so they are easy to find. Now I use HandBook Travelogue and MUJI notebooks. MUJI are so cheap you feel good about making bad drawings! HandBook has the nicest paper, when you feel artsy.

PART 1:
HOW TO DRAW

"A line is a dot that went for a walk."
—Paul Klee

Are You Afraid to Draw?

No one expects to sit down at a piano and play Chopin without practicing.
So why do *you* expect to draw wonderfully without doing your scales?

Like any skill, from piano to basketball, you have to practice.

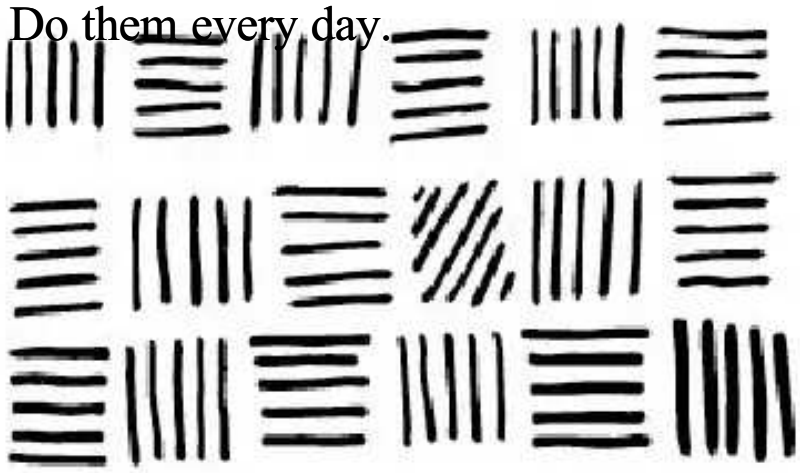
You will suck for a while.

But not forever.

Start with Lines

If learning to draw is like learning to play piano, then **lines** are our scales.

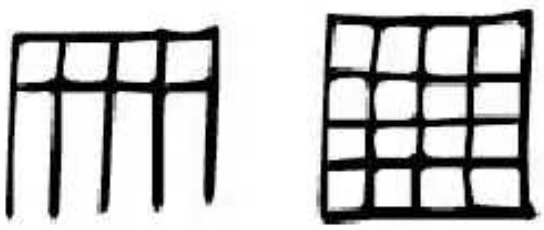
Do them every day.



Begin by drawing lines in sets of five. Go in both directions, up and down.

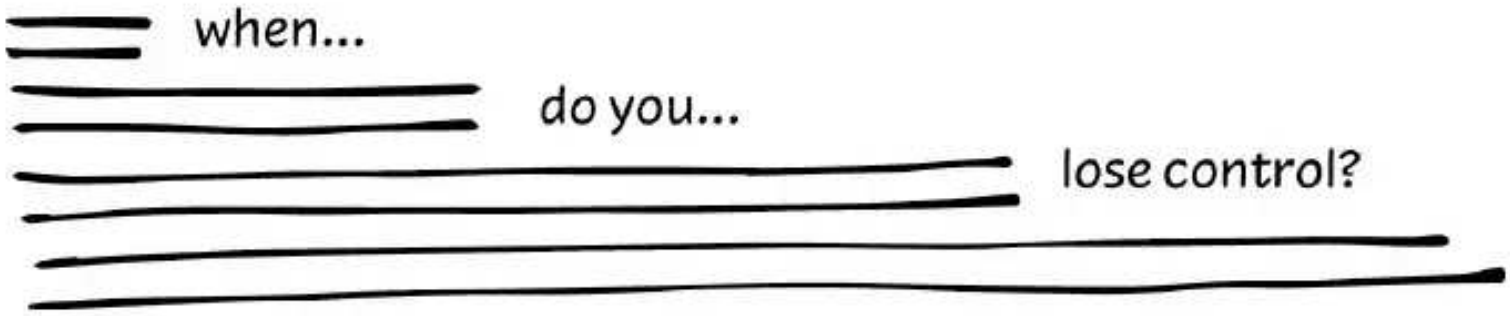
Try to make the lines equidistant. Try to make diagonal lines, too.

Play with drawing the lines very close to each other, and very far apart.



Overlap your lines to make grids. If the lines are equidistant, you'll make tidy squares.

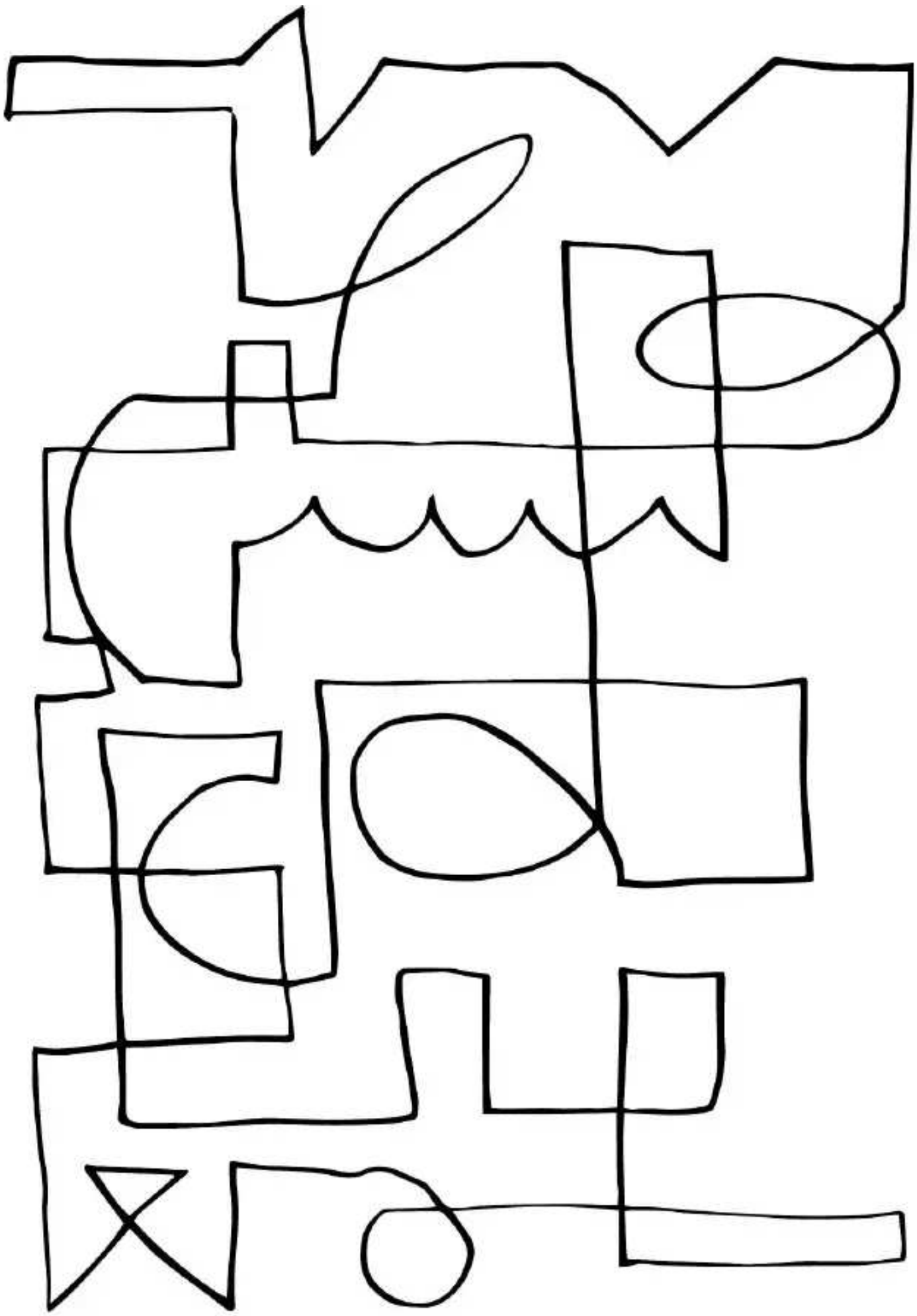
Try making lines very long.

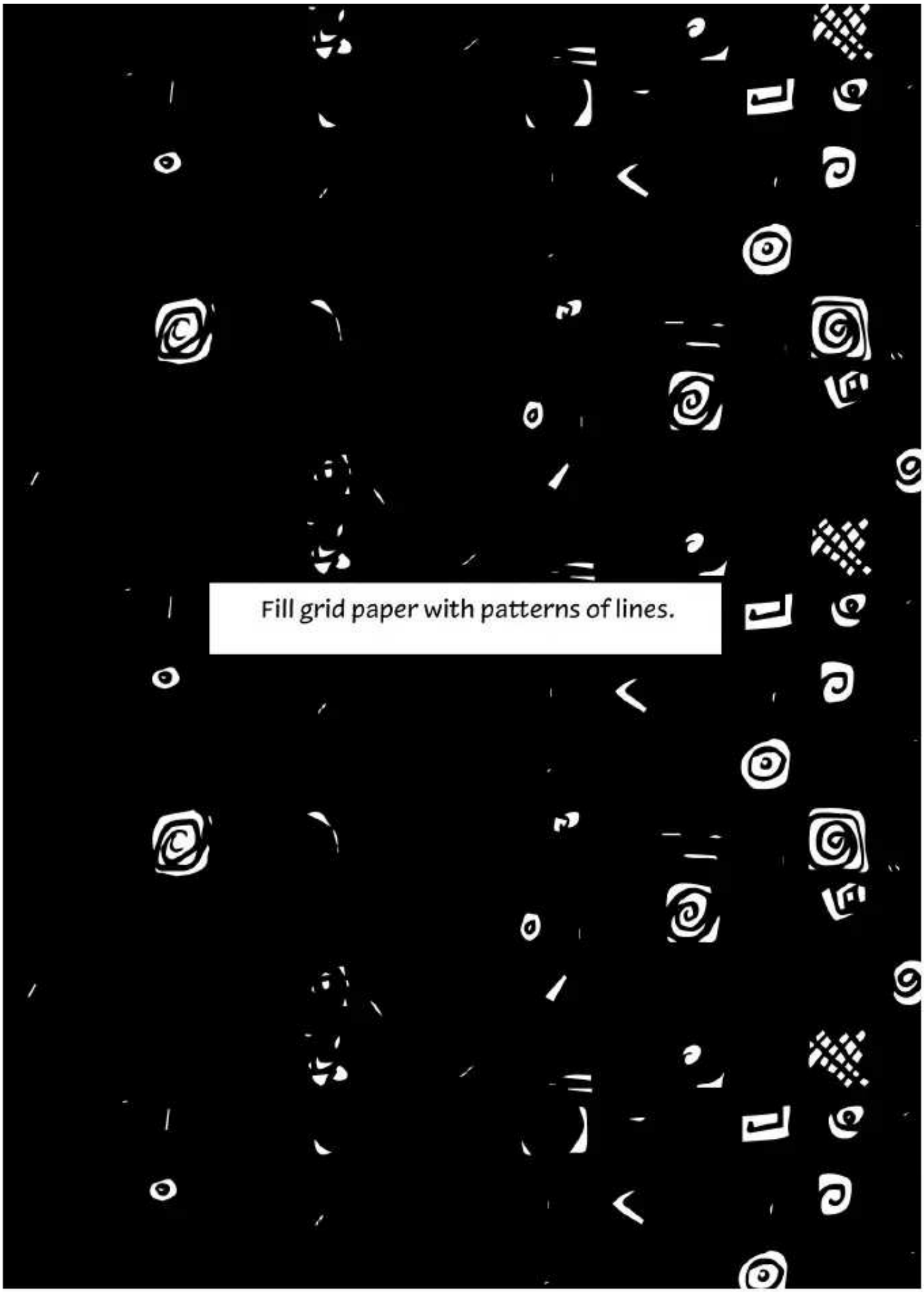


Fill pages with lines during boring meetings.

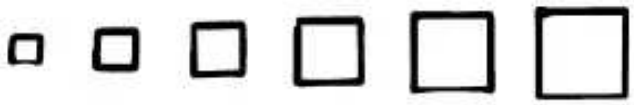
Exercises

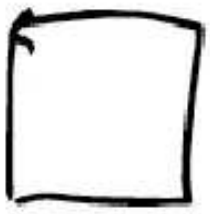
Listen to a song, and let your pen dance to it!



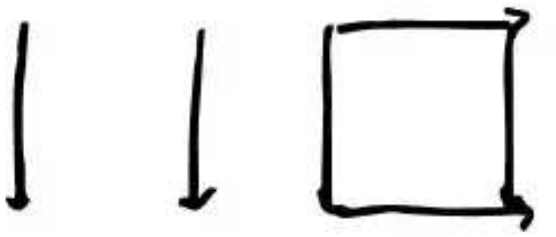

Fill grid paper with patterns of lines.

Practice Making Shapes

Start with **boxes**. 

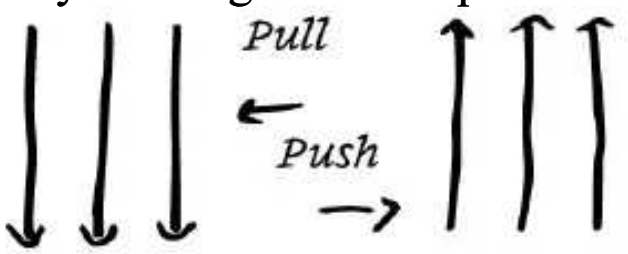


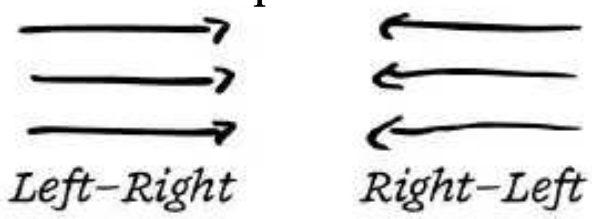
Let's think about how we make a box. Do you draw it all in one go, not lifting your pen up? Is your last line sloppy?



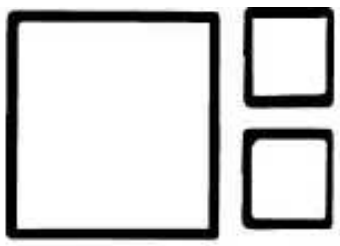
Play with different ways to draw them. Draw the vertical lines equidistant, then the horizontals.

Try drawing two L shapes. Does a certain technique make a better box?





Are you more accurate when you **pull** or **push** the pen? Left to right? Right to left?

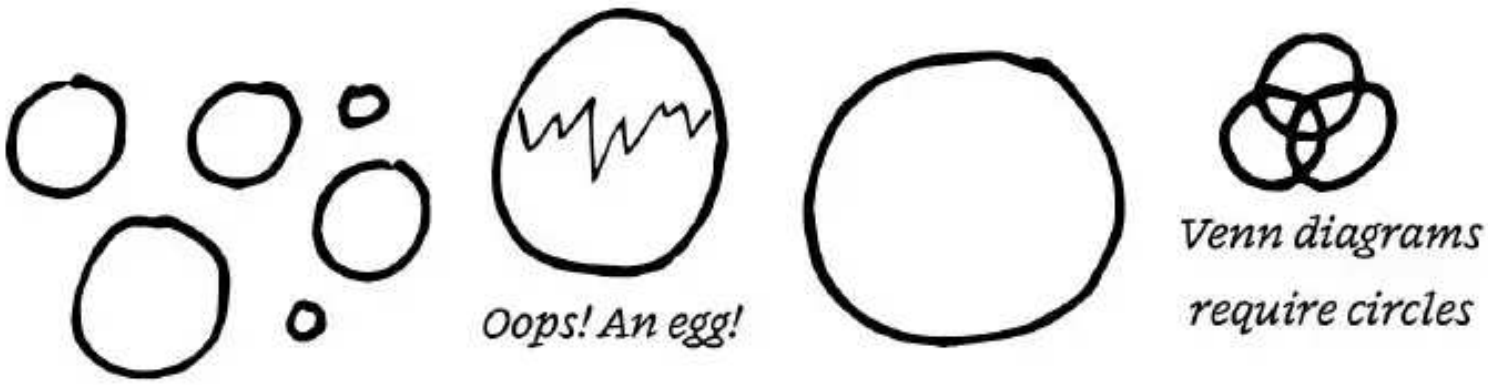


Try to make small boxes and big boxes, but always **stay square**!

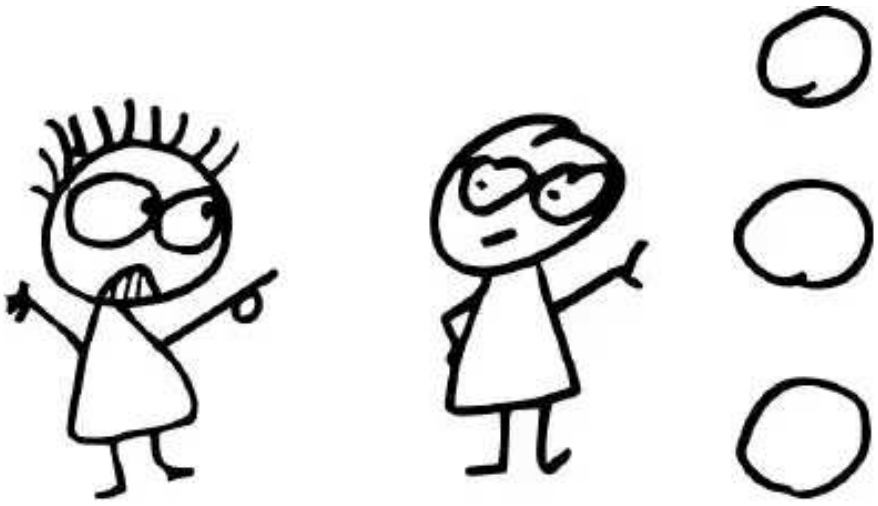
From here, you can try making **rectangles**.

Next try **circles**. Circles are *really hard* to draw… if you rush.

Go slow!



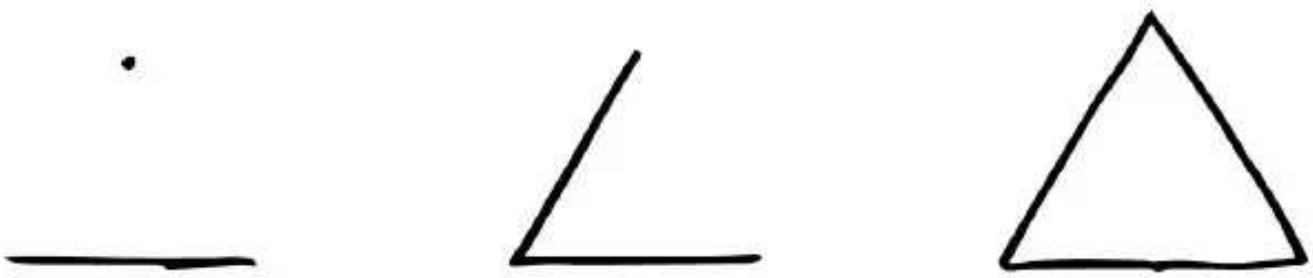
Keep circles tidy. Make sure the end point neatly touches the beginning point.



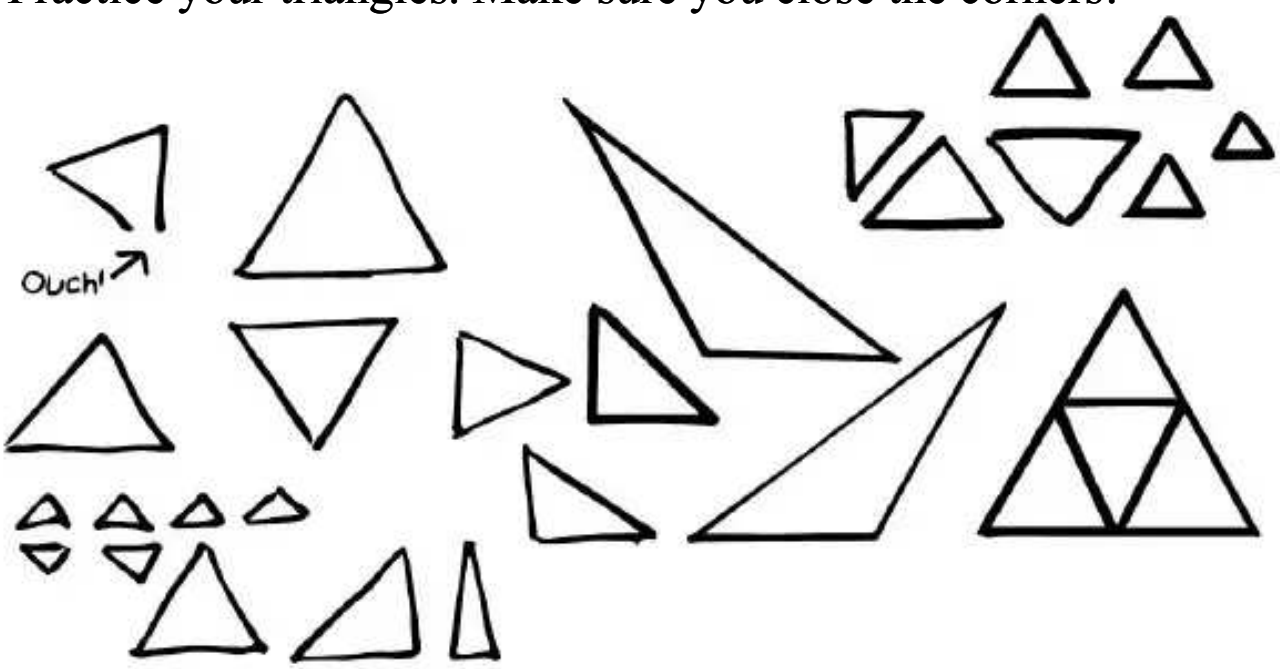
You don't want your circles embarrassed because the other kids at school say they are funny looking.

Finally, **triangles**. Making a triangle isn't as hard as it looks.

Draw a line. Mark the midpoint. Make a dot above the midpoint where you want your point. Now all you have to do is connect each end with the dot.

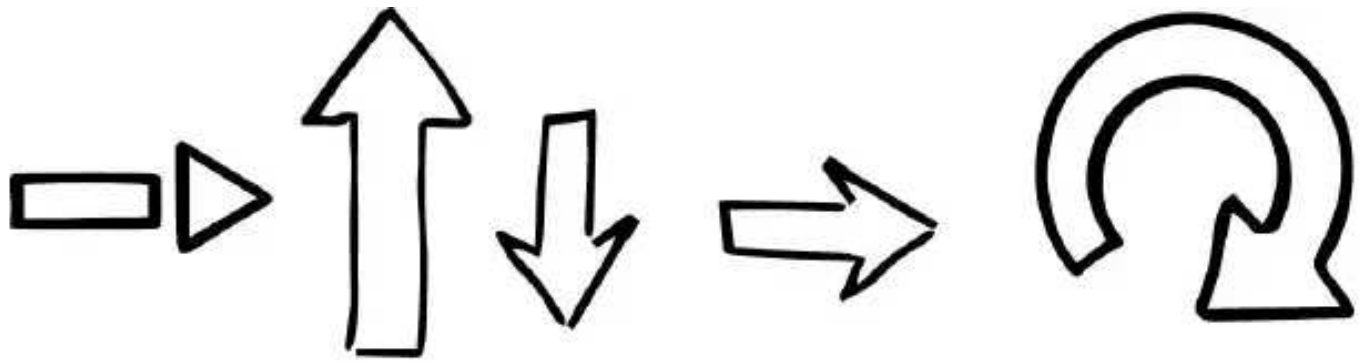


Practice your triangles. Make sure you close the corners!



Sierpinski triangle, fractal fans!

Arrows are just rectangles and triangles together.

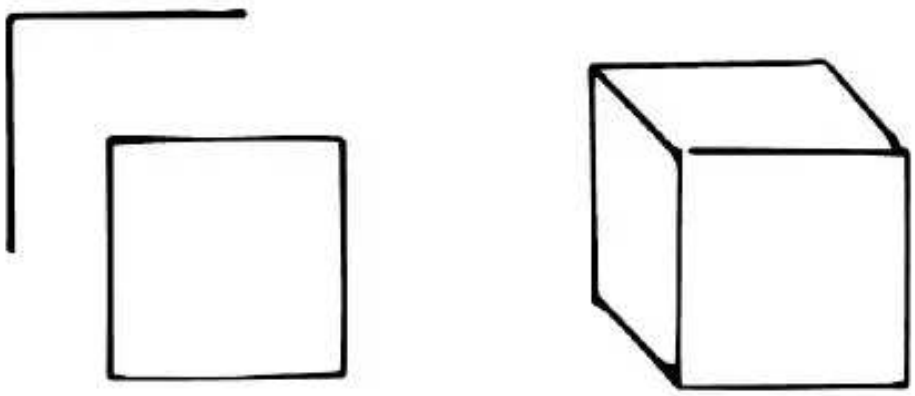


Or sometimes a triangle and a circle.

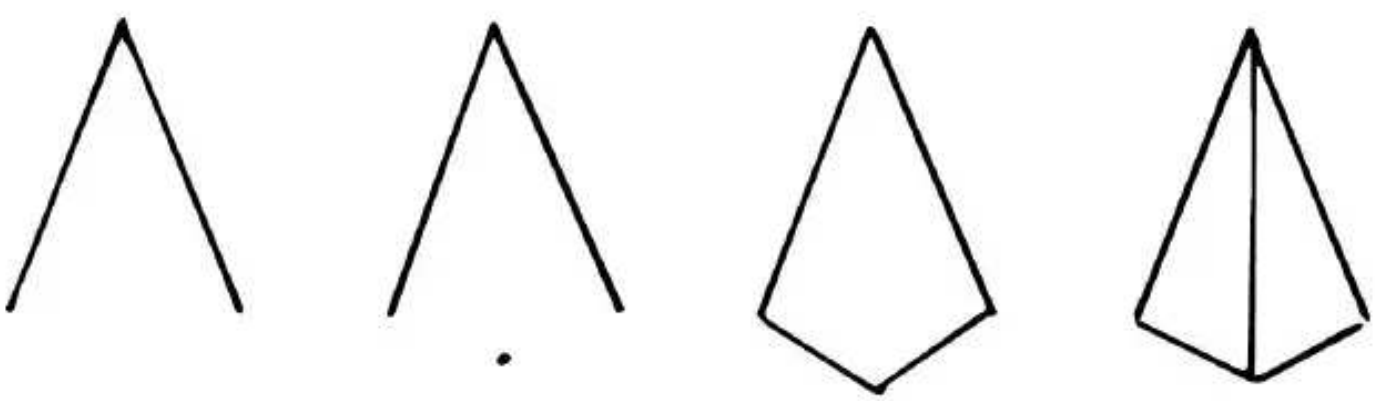
3-D Shapes

Sometimes you need to make things 3-D. For example, if you wanted to draw a package.

For a **cube**, draw a square, then half a square behind it. Connect the corners.



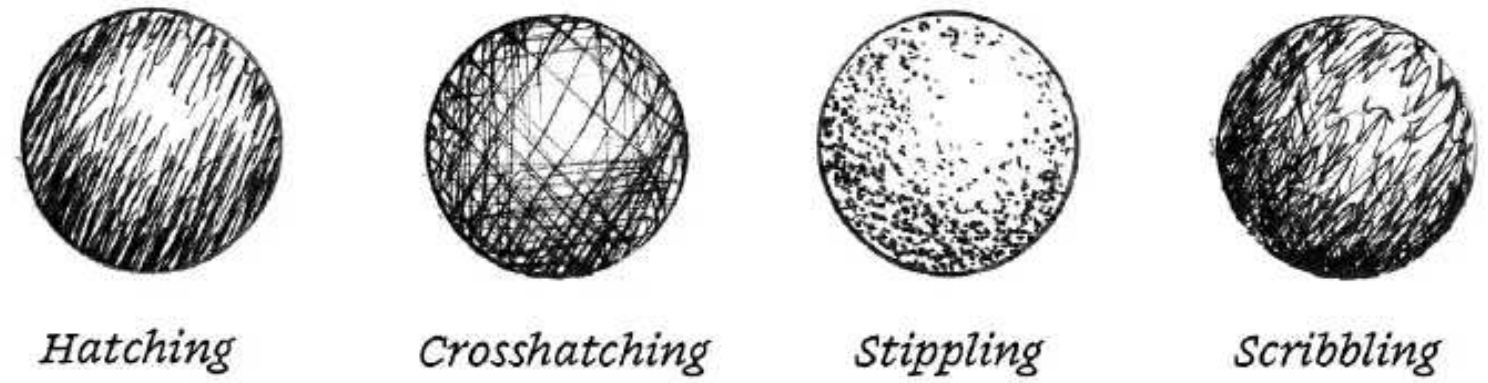
For a **pyramid**, the triangle's bottom line gets a point as well.



Spheres don't have hard edges to suggest 3-D surfaces. Give it a reflection, or consider shading.

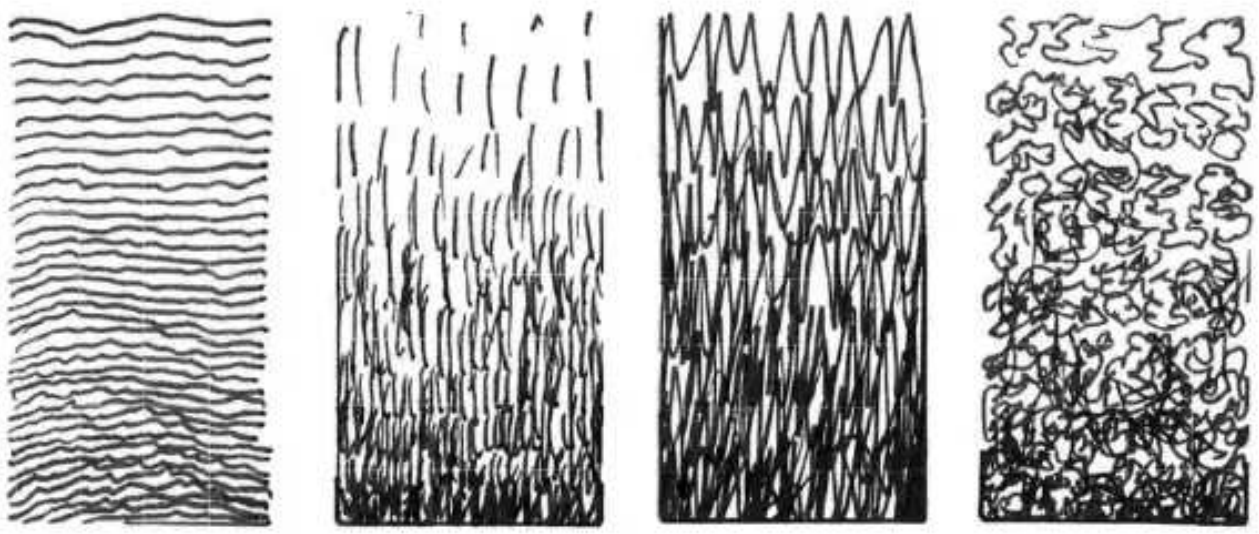
Shadow & Texture

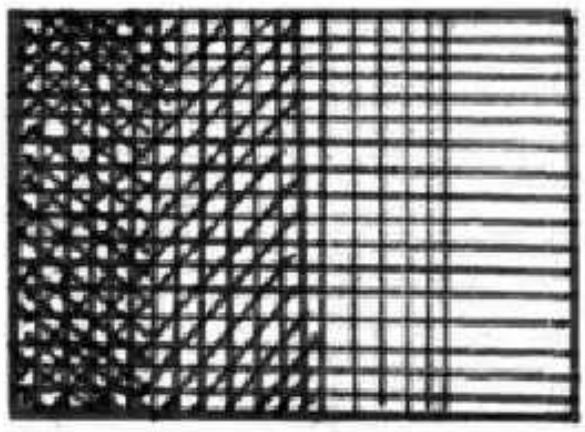
You can use lines to fill in shapes to create an illusion of shadow and depth.



In **hatching**, lines go one way. In cross hatching, they are perpendicular. Stippling is made with dots. Scribbling is scribbling. But thoughtful scribbling!

You can make the texture shadowy two ways. Lines that are closer together look darker.

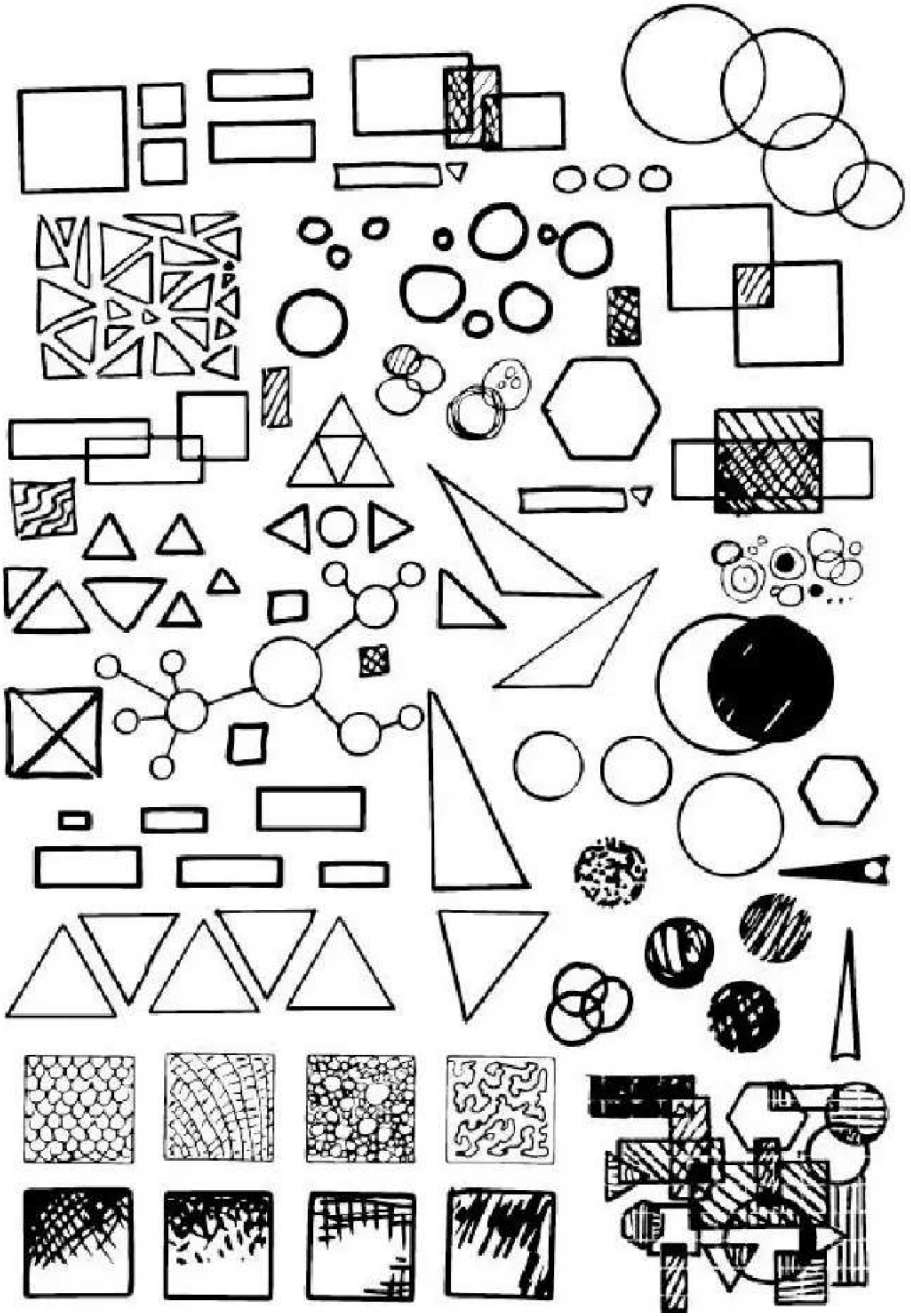




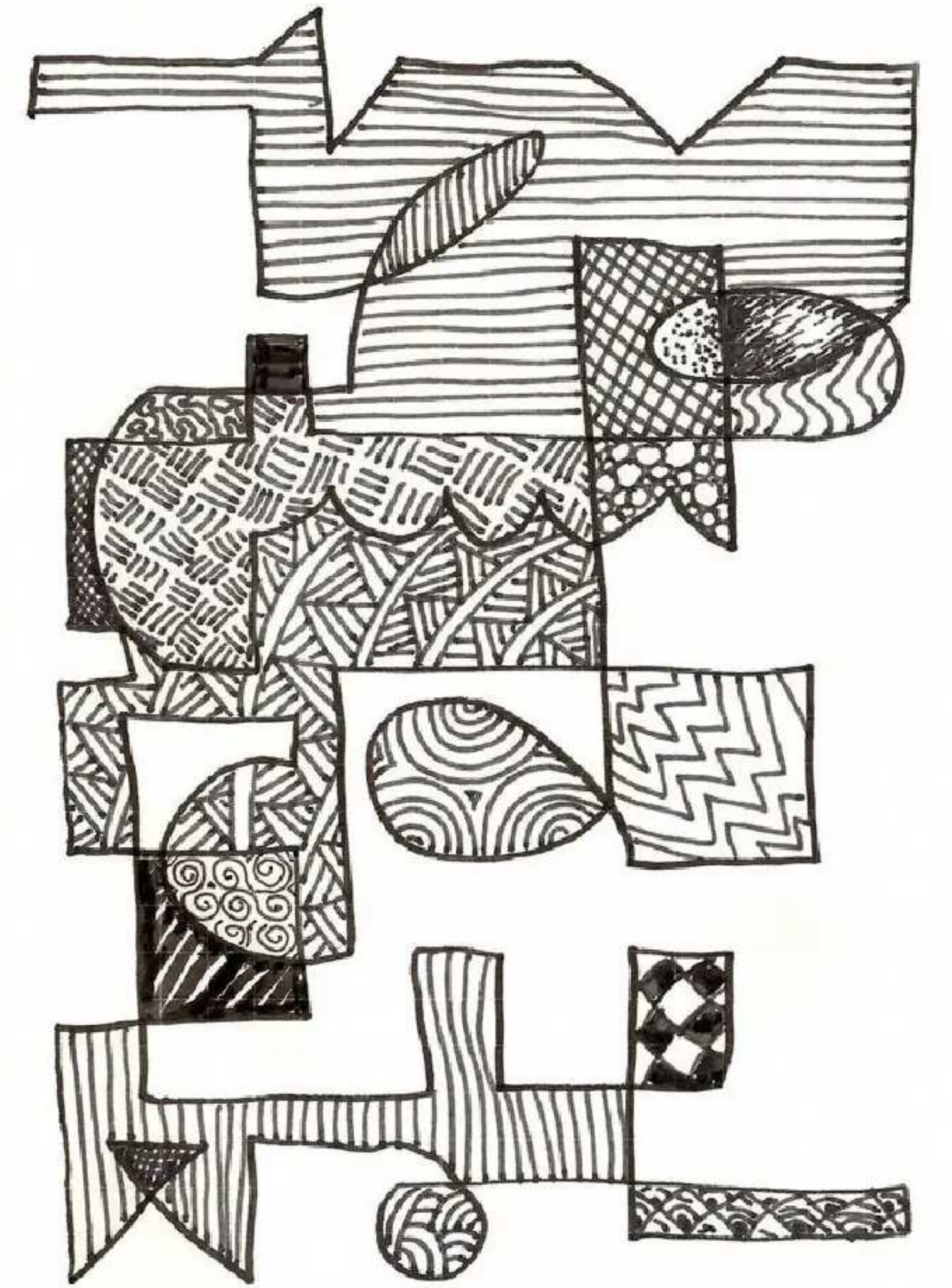
You can also crosshatch in different directions, building up density. Experiment!

Exercise

Fill a page with squares, rectangles, circles and triangles. Play with rulers and try freehand. Shade them. Fill with texture.



Go back to your wandering lines (from page 9), and fill them in with patterns.

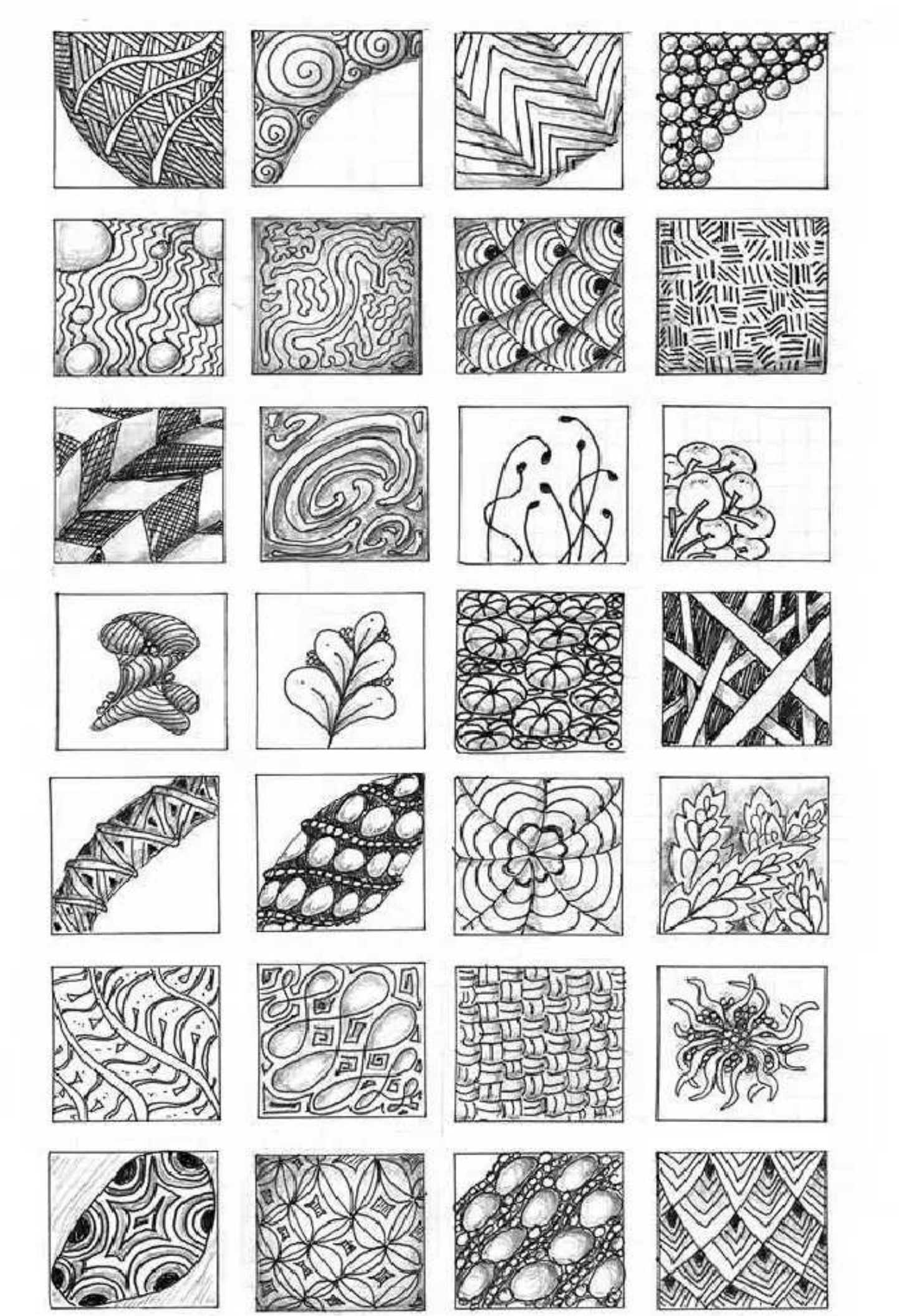


Draw to Relax.

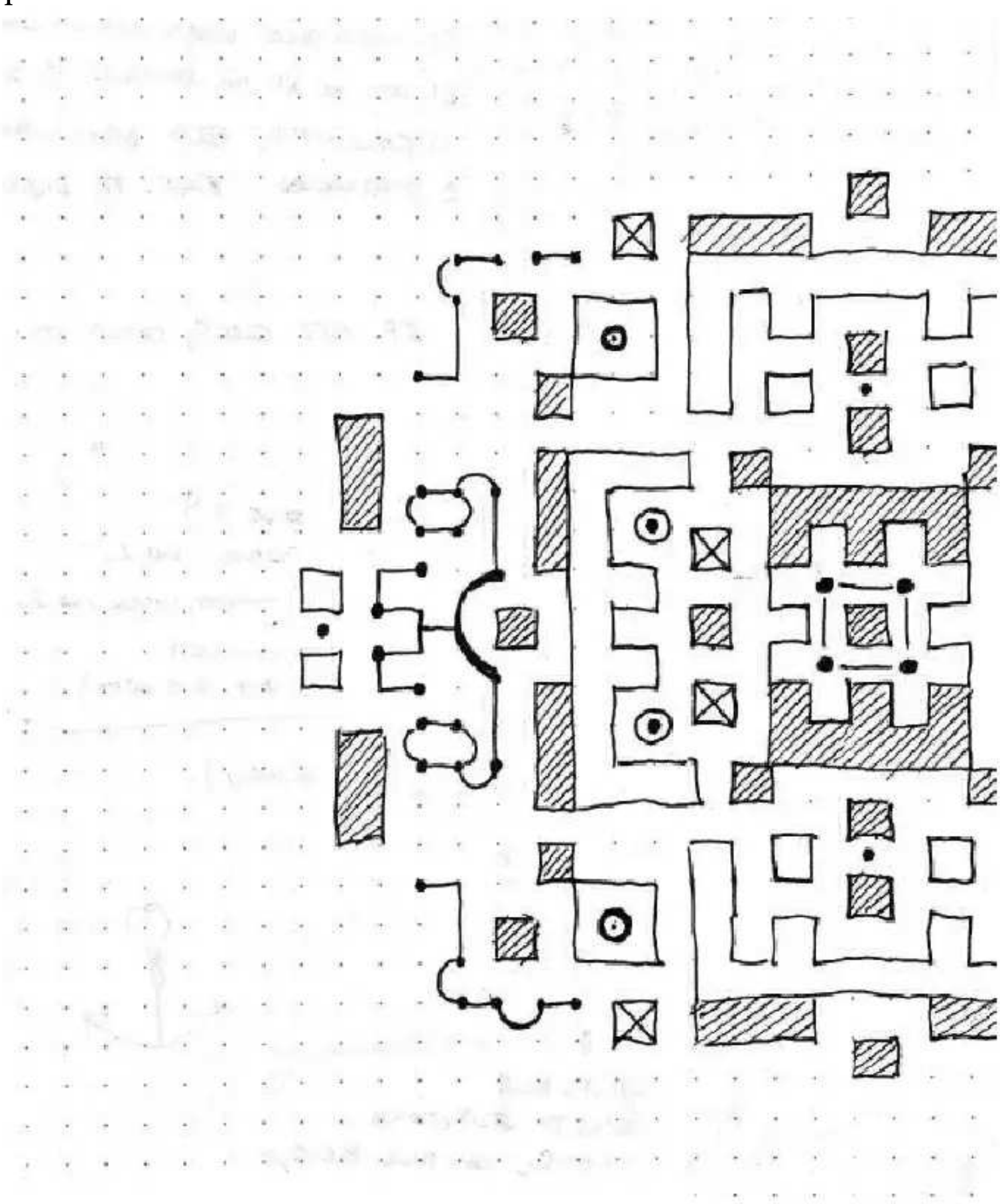
There is a kind of drawing meditation called **zentangles**. In this practice, you fill shapes with patterns.

This is a great way for you to practice your hand control.

And chill out.



Go back to your wandering lines (from page 29), and fill them in with patterns.



“I’m obsessed with the grid pattern on the paper. Practicing with grids sometimes results in interesting mechanical insights thrice removed.”
—Daniel Cook, Chief Creative Officer (and Game Designer) at Spry Fox